recommended that the rate of entertainment tax be lowered to a ceiling of 45%. A number of States have suitably lowered their entertainment tax levels.

- The Committee also recommended appointment of senior police officers in States to work in co-ordination with the entertainment industry, as nodal officers.
- During the Budget of 2003-04, audio CDs were exempted from excise duty to do away with the price advantage available to pirated CDs.
- The Public Service Broadcasting Trust has been entrusted with the task of making a film on piracy.
- The Cable Television Networks Regulation Act has been amended in 2000, to prohibit a Cable operator from transmitting or re-transmitting any programme or channel for which the Copyright holder has not granted him a license.
- This Ministry has requested Chief Secretaries of all States to advise District Magistrates and Superintendents of Police to include anti piracy measures in their monthly activity reports.

Ban on Advertisement of Tobacco Products

†2094. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a ban has been imposed on advertisements of all the tobacco products;

(b) if so, whether it has been ensured that the pan masala shown in the advertisements telecast on TV are without tobacco; and

(c) the procedure adopted to ensure this?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) The Government has enacted The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act 2003'which, *inter alia,* contains provision which bans direct or indirect advertisement of tobacco products.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Advertisements on all TV channels when transmitted/re-transmitted through the Cable Television Network are required to adhere to the Advertising Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. The Advertising Code *inter alia* prohibits advertisements, which promote directly/indirectly production, sale or consumption of cigarettes, tobacco products.

(b) and (c) On the matter regarding advertisement of pan masala without tobacco the Advertisement Standards Council of India has been asked to examine the veracity of the claim in terms of its own Code of Self-regulation.

Strength of Judges in Guwahati High Court

2095. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the actual number of Judges in Guwahati High Court Permanent Bench, Kohima is very less as against the sanctioned strength;

(b) whether the Chief Justice of Guwahati High Court, Chief Minister and Governor of Nagaland have recommended names of Naga persons to fill up the vacancies of Judges in the above Bench;

(c) if so, the deails thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for not recommending names of the Naga persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Deployment of Judges to various Benches of the Guwahati High Court is the prerogative of the Chief Justice of that High Court.

(b) to (d) Pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgement of October 06, 1993 read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28,1998, the process of initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges of a High Court lies with the Chief Justice of that High Court. Government has not received any recommendation from the Chief Justice of the Guwahati High Court for appointment of Judges in that High Court.

Appointment of Judges in High Courts

2096. SHRI RAMAMUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state: